MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
19 December, 1974

AM
10:00 *CONVENE, 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.*

ADMINISTRATION

A. Dates of next meetings: 15 January, 1975
19 February, 1975

B. Minutes of November, 1974 meeting.

C. Nominations to the Board of Architectural Consultants for Old Georgetown.

D. Willard Hotel - Status Report.

E. Draft Design Criteria for National Capital Memorial Advisory Committee.

F. Bridge Exhibition at Octagon House, November, 1975.

G. West End Zoning Change.

SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS

A. General Services Administration

1. Federal Home Loan Bank Board Building, 17th and G Streets, N.W. - Final Tentative Plans.

2. Mechanical and Electrical Updating of the Winder Building, 17th and F Streets, N.W.

B. National Zoological Park

1. Glockenspiel.

2. Frog Sculpture.

C. Department of Health, Education and Welfare

Signage, Graphics and Information System.

D. National Park Service, National Capital Parks

Muhlenberg Memorial, Connecticut Avenue and Ellicott Street, N.W. - Examples of Proposed Sculptor's Work.

E. Department of the Navy, Naval Facilities Engineering Command

U.S. Marine Corps Historical Center, Washington Navy Yard - Alternative Doorway Treatments.

F. D.C. Government, Department of Economic Development

Old Georgetown Act

1. OG 75-90, 3238 R Street, N.W., New Dwelling - No Action Required.

2. Appendix 1.

Shipstead-Luce Act

Appendix 2.

INTERVIEWS

11:30 A. General Services Administration

1. Federal Home Loan Bank Board Building, 17th and G Streets, N.W. - Final Tentative Plans.

2. Mechanical and Electrical Updating of the Winder Building, 17th and F Streets, N.W.

12:00 B. Department of Health, Education and Welfare

Signage, Graphics and Information System.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
19 December, 1974

The meeting convened at 10:00 a.m. in the Commission of Fine Arts offices at 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Members Present:	*Hon. J. Carter Brown, Chairman*
	Hon. Jane O. Dart
	Hon. Chloethiel Woodard Smith
	Hon. Edward D. Stone, Jr.
	Hon. George A. Weymouth
Staff Present:	*Mr. Charles H. Atherton, Secretary*
	Mr. Donald B. Myer, Assistant Secretary
	Mr. Jeffrey R. Carson
	Mr. J. L. Sibley Jennings, Jr.
	Mrs. Sue A. Kohler
	Mrs. Nancy N. Lusher
	Mr. David L. Miller
Legal Consultant Present:	*Mr. J. Dapray Muir*
National Capital Planning Commission Staff Present:	*Mr. Edward Hromanick*

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Dates of next meeting were set at 15 January and 19 February, 1975.

B. Minutes of November 1974 meeting, approved.

C. Nominations for the Old Georgetown Board of Architectural Consultants. The Secretary told of receiving several names as suggested board members to fill in the vacancies left by the term expiration of Warren Cox and the soon to expire term of Thomas Stohlman. The Commission agreed to appoint a subcommittee of the Chairman, the Secretary, and the remaining Board member, Mr. Wynant Vanderpool. Four suggestions would be named before candidates were contacted - there would be two appointments and two runners-up. The new members could then be confirmed at the January 15, 1975 meeting. The members unanimously agreed.

D. Willard Hotel, Status Report. The Assistant Secretary told the members of events since their October 1973 recommendation to the City that the exterior facade of the Willard Hotel not be removed because of its architectural and historical public interest. The City had upheld the Commission's action resulting in litigation between the City and the

building owners. The suit had resulted in an order within the last week by a District Court to issue the building permit. An injunction by a Federal Court, gained by the citizens' group, "Don't Tear It Down", had since then restrained the District Government from issuing a permit. The Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation, furthermore, was in the position of blocking any demolition work on the Hotel, which is retained in their plan, until mid-June. It was further reported that private business interests were actively negotiating to reopen the Willard and retain the facade. The Secretary and Assistant Secretary had attended a staff level meeting at the District Building on the 17th of December which set up a cooperative liason between various interested parties and agencies. The members expressed interest in retention of the building. The Chairman asked the staff to keep in close touch with the situation and keep the Commission advised.

The Assistant Secretary also mentioned that the members had been sent copies of the new Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation report for their information. This report was the same as presented to Congress. Congress was expected to approve or modify the plan by about March. The main difference berween the plan and the Commission's recommendations was the inclusion of the Western Plaza in place of the air-rights buildings in front of the Old National Theater Building at 13th and E Streets, N.W. The Chairman pointed out that the Commission's report on the draft plan had been incorporated into the final plan with this minor exception. No action was required.

E. Draft Design Criteria for the National Capital Memorial Advisory Committee. The Secretary presented a draft of this document to the members. The Chairman asked that the members read the document, which they did. After some general discussion the Commission unanimously approved the document.

F. Bridge Exhibition at the Octagon, AIA Headquarters, November, 1975. The Assistant Secretary told the members that Miss Jean Butler, Curator of the Octagon, suggested an exhibit on Washington bridges, based on the Commission's publication BRIDGES AND THE CITY OF WASHINGTON. The exhibit would use the publication as a catalogue and make use of original drawings in archives and various agencies, including some material owned by the Commission of Fine Arts. Little staff time or expense would be involved in the project wince it was to be designed and arranged by the Octagon staff. The members unanimously approved the concept.

G. West End Zoning Change. The Secretary told of a rezoning of Washington's West End, a section of the city between Washington Circle and Rock Creek Park, just east of Georgetown. The zoning order had resulted from District of Columbia staff study as well as public hearings and inquiries. The order limited buildings along Rock Creek Park edge to 60 feet, though 110-foot buildings were permitted within the area.

He stated that the Commission of Fine Arts had requested that this proviso be made during a July 1974 hearing. This testimony had been substantially responsible for accomplishing this added protection for the rim of Rock Creek Valley. No action was required.

II. SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS

A. General Services Administration

1. Federal Home Loan Bank Board Building, 17th and G Streets, N.W. The Assistant Secretary presented models and drawings of this new office building for the White House area. In showing the originally approved scheme with a solid facade pierced by window openings he pointed out the entirely new concept of the present submission with its deeply shadowed glass walls behind a series of limestone fins. The lower floor of the new building would have commercial shops and restaurants surrounding a courtyard designed to be a lively pedestrian amenity for the vicinity. Though only facade restudies were presented for the Commission's consideration, he suggested that the members examine the approach to courtyard design and landscape, since there appeared to be some inconsistencies between design strengths as exhibited in the new building, restoration of the adjacent Winder Building, and the nearby Old Executive Office Building. After examining the material and general discussion during which Mrs. Dart expressed enthusiasm over the new design and Mr. Stone expressed disappointment in the courtyard design, a memorandum of the staff's call to Mr. Roche regarding the design was also read. The Chairman polled the members on their opinions coming to a unanimous approval of the architectural designs with the exceptions of the roof parapets, curved court-side stair towers, 17th Street balcony designs, and the size of the limestone facade units. The Commission met later in the day with project representatives and interested parties.

2. Mechanical and Electrical Updating of the Winder Building, 17th and F Streets, N.W. The Secretary showed the members drawings and photographs of this historic building which was proposed for restoration and use as an office building by the General Services Administration. The Commission recalled a report on preliminary studies by the Consultant, Mr. Richard Bergmann, during the November meeting. Since that time Messers Atherton, Myer and Jennings had met several times with the project representatives. The presentation later in the meeting would concern only the mechanical additions to the building, with the understanding that further research was necessary to fully restore the building architecturally. The Secretary pointed out that the proposal before the Commission included no exterior fan-coil vents, grills, or penthouses. He further mentioned that the north elevator penthouse, currently a neighborhood eyesore, would be removed. Mr. Jennings pointed out that there were several inconsistencies in the proposed heating-cooling system. This proposed system would place a fan-coil five-pipe unit

under most interior windows. On the first floor level the windows go to the floor to provide access to the potentially restored balcony. Mr. Jennings also pointed out that the lighting system had not been resolved. The members generally discussed points about the rehabilitation with members of the staff, with Mr. Weymouth suggesting that no flourescent fixtures be used in the individual offices - he felt that a few wall sconces and desk or task lighting would be sufficient. Further discussion was held later in the meeting with project representatives.

B. National Zoological Park

1. Glockenspiel. The Secretary presented several drawings of a 36-foot high metal tower with bells, figures, and a clock to be located near the Connecticut Avenue entrance to the National Zoo. The Commission examined the drawings, finding them inadequate to tell exactly what the proposal would look like on the site. Further, they suspected that the figures as shown would not be sufficiently visible from the ground and that the whole was not fanciful enough for a Zoo glockenspiel. The Commission decided to ask for additional information and study, with the Secretary suggesting a visit to the Zoo in January when a large Rock Creek Park edge parking structure design would be considered. The Commission concurred. EXHIBIT B

2. Frog Sculpture. The Secretary presented a photograph and a site drawing of a proposed four-foot high frog sculpture to be located near the Reptile House. The sculpture by William McVey was approved by the members who suggested that the location and base be restudied. As shown in the drawings, the sculpture would be in a free-form sitting area, the design of which the members felt was not good. They suggested the alternates of placing the frog in a pond, on a lawn, or on a mound of ground cover. This unanimous decision was transmitted to the Zoo. EXHIBIT C

C. Department of Health, Education and Welfare

Signage, Graphics and Information System. The Assistant Secretary presented several models and drawings on the resubmission of this information and identity system for the complex of buildings occupied by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare in Southwest Washington along Independence Avenue. The previous submission had centered on square pylons twelve and sixteen feet high. The Commission's previous comments suggested that the scale of the pylons was probably too large, but that a mockup on the site would be the best determinant. The members had also suggested that the program was redundant. New studies showed two-sided pylons rather than the previous four-sided elements. Several units had been consolidated and eliminated from the plan and the height would be studied further through mockups. The Commission felt that there was a movement to comply with their previous suggestions, but that the mockup would be critical in determining

their final action. The project representatives met with the Commission later in the meeting.

D. National Park Service, National Capital Parks

Muhlenberg Memorial, Connecticut Avenue and Ellicott Street, N.W. - Examples of Proposed Sculptor's work. The Secretary presented a series of photographs of Carolyn Hufford's previous sculptures. The members examined the work, finding most pieces interesting and some quite amusing. Though most of the work shown was metal sculpture, the proposed memorial would be stone. The Commission felt that further examination of a model in some detail prior to actual full-sized work would be the best route. Since the sculptor had not done the specific type of work required before this would give everyone an opportunity to proceed with the utmost care. The Commission was unanimous in this recommendation. EXHIBIT D

E. Department of the Navy, Naval Facilities Engineering Command

U.S. Marine Corps Historical Center, Washington Navy Yard - Alternative Doorway Treatments. The Assistant Secretary presented drawings and a photograph depicting the existing doorway, disapproved at the November meeting, and four proposed alternate treatments of the doorway. He pointed out that the lamps shown on all schemes appeared to be under-scaled and that several of the schemes looked more like office or barracks doors than those of a public musuem. The Commission selected scheme "D" which was a series of glass slabs within the existing opening, recommending that the light fixtures be up-scaled and that the transom bar be minimized in size and made dark (probably bronze). They suggested that the sign be studied above the doorway, to increase the vertical scale of the entrance, similar to the existing sign. Perhaps the sign could be bronze free-standing leggers. The Commission was unanimous in this action, of approving a modified version of scheme "D". EXHIBIT E

F. D.C. Government, Department of Economic Development

Old Georgetown Act

1. OG 75-90, 3238 R Street, N.W., New Dwelling - Informal Presentation. No action required. The Secretary showed the Commission a series of three schemes for adding a new house to the east of the historic Scott-Grant House. The scheme as presented in November had resulted in the Commission's suggestion that the new house be treated as an outbuilding of the Mansion, sharing a common drive and orienting the entrance away from the street. The sketch showed several studies of this concept. The Secretary told the Commission that the Georgetown Board had agreed that this series showed great promist for a successful

handling of this design problem. The Commission concurred unanimously.

2. Appendix 1, approved.

Shipstead-Luce Act

Appendix 2, approved.

III. INTERVIEWS

A. General Services Administration

1. Federal Home Loan Bank Board Building, 17th and G Streets, N.W. - Final Tentative Plans. The project was represented by Messers Duane Gooselaw and J. Wayne Kulig of the General Services Administration, and Messers Martin Stein, George Wright, and Jo Standley of the architect Max Urbahn Associates. Mrs. Carol Bickley represented the citizens' group "Don't Tear It Down". The Chairman asked Mr. Stein to describe the main features of his facade studies, which he did. Mr. Stein recounted the architect's efforts to establish a lively facade recalling the light-and-shadow spirit of the Old Executive Office Building across the street. Then the Chairman called upon Mrs. Bickley to make her statement on behalf of "Don't Tear It Down". Mrs. Bickley said that her organization was pleased by the new facade design and hoped that the Commission of Fine Arts would continue to press for good architecture, even if it would involve frequent and total redesign.

EXHIBIT F

The Chairman then recounted the Commission's earlier comments to Mr. Stein. Mr. Stein agreed to restudy the 17th Street balcony treatment. He also said that the limestone units as represented by the perspectives were indeed smaller than the designers felt they should be, and that they were now thinking in terms of two-foot squares of stone. Mr. Stein also said that the courtyard design and the courtyard stair towers were under additional study. He agreed with the Commis sion that these items should be given more work. The Chairman thanked Mr. Stein and reflected the Commission's unanimous approval of the new facade with those items of reservation mentioned above.

EXHIBIT G

2. Mechanical and Electrical Updating of the Winder Building, 17th and F Streets, N.W. The project was represented by Messers Duane Gooselaw and Wayne Kulig of the General Services Administration, and Messers Martin Stein, George Wright, and Jo Standley of the Urbahn architectural office, and Mr. Richard Bergmann, the restoration consultant. The Chairman expressed the Commission's pleasure at seeing the General Services Administration retain, restore, and reuse the historic Winder Building. He stated the Commission's hope that this could be done in

the most sensitive and authentic manner possible. Then he asked Mr. Bergmann to present his scheme for mechanical and electrical rehabilitation of the building. Mr. Bergmann discussed the system of fan-coil five-pipe units and lighting fron flourescent tubes at the top of office barrel vaults. He stated that no exterior effect would result from the proposed work; only an existing penthouse would have to be removed. There was general discussion with the Commission suggesting that further study was necessary on both the heating-cooling and the lighting. Mr. Bergmann stated that the lighting in particular would have to be studied with mockups, etc. The Commission was unanimous in its recommending restudy of the mechanical elements of the project.

B. Department of Health, Education and Welfare

Signage, Graphics and Information System. The project was represented by Mr. Elwood J. Thornton III of HEW, and Messers David Beard and Fred Craig, the consultants. Mr. Craig made a presentation of their scheme and its present response to the Commission's previous recommendations after Mr. Thornton introduced the philosophy of the project. The Commission unanimously approved the direction that the agency was moving in, in directing strong coordinated efforts at good graphics and street furniture. The Chairman stated the Commission's hope that a new logo for the department could be pursued at the same time and that this element would have a great impact on the success of the current effort. The Chairman also suggested that the Commission withhold any final judgement on scale until the mockup could be examined on the site. EXHIBIT H

IV. INSPECTION

The Chairman adjourned the formal meeting at 12:45 and the members left for an inspection of recent acquisitions of the Freer Gallery. EXHIBIT I

Signed,

Charles H. Atherton

Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman
NICOLAS ARROYO
JANE O. DART
KEVIN ROCHE
CHLOETHIEL WOODARD SMITH
EDWARD STONE, JR.
GEORGE WEYMOUTH
CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-343-5324

December 23, 1974

Dear Dr. Reed:

We looked briefly at the proposal for a new glockenspiel and the installation of a frog sculpture at the National Zoo at our meeting on December 19, 1974.

Since the glockenspiel design was admittedly in a very tentative stage, the Commission felt it did not have enough information to make specific comments. In general, however, I can say that we shared a feeling the design should be a good deal more whimsical. Probably, the rotating element with the little figures should be lower and more easily visible to children who will be, I assume, the principal benefactors of such a design feature. We suggest that in the next presentation a scale model be used to study the project.

We liked the frog sculpture by Mr. William McVey. We do not like its setting, however. I suppose it might be ideally set in a small pond, or possibly an area treated with ground cover like pachysandra or ivy without all the geometry of the proposed seating area. If it is desirable to make it accessible to children so they can climb on it, it might be just a free-standing element on the lawn.

We plan to come out to the zoo at our next meeting on January 15, 1975, when we review the new parking and administrative facilities and will take a closer look at the sites for the sculpture and the glockenspiel at that time.

Sincerely yours,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Dr. Theodore Reed
Director
National Zoological Park
Washington, D.C. 20009

Exhibit B & C.

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman
NICOLAS ARROYO
JANE O. DART
KEVIN ROCHE
CHLOETHIEL WOODARD SMITH
EDWARD STONE, JR.
GEORGE WEYMOUTH
CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-343-5324

19 December, 1974

Dear Jack:

This is just to let you know that the Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on December 19, 1974, looked at examples of the work of the proposed sculptress, Carolyn Hufford, for the Muhlenberg Memorial at Connecticut Avenue and Ellicott Street, N.W.

Mrs. Hufford is the first choice of the Muhlenberg Memorial Committee. Her work has been mostly in metal, and is generally good. Since we assume that the memorial is to be a portrait statue we recommend that a detailed scale model of the design be prepared. It should be large enough to get a sense of the portraiture and modelling.

We will be meeting next on January 15, 1975, and will be happy to view any new studies at that time.

Sincerely yours,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Manus J. Fish, Jr.
Director
National Capital Parks
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

Exhibit D.

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman
NICOLAS ARROYO — CHLOETHIEL WOODARD SMITH
JANE O. DART — EDWARD STONE, JR.
KEVIN ROCHE — GEORGE WEYMOUTH
CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-343-5324

6 January, 1975

Dear Commander Briselden:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on December 19, 1974, reviewed revised designs for the main entrance of the Marine Corps Historical Center at the Washington Navy Yard. We preferred Scheme D with the following recommendations:

> We suggest that the museum identification lettering be placed directly over the doorway to increase the vertical scale of this feature, as is true with the old sign. Another possibility would be to directly mount letters on the glass transom. In any event, we hope that the transom bar can be thinner and dark bronze in color rather than white. The lights adjoining the entranceway should be larger and probably take the form of translucent globes, more typical of the period of the building. An additional plaque identifying the museum and the hours that it is open would also not be inappropriate under one or both of the lights.

The Commission's next meetings will be on January 15, 1975 and February 19, 1975. We would be happy to review any new studies then.

Sincerely yours,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

LCDR D. J. Briselden
Department of the Navy
Naval Facilities Engineering Command
Building 57, Washington Navy Yard
Washington, D.C. 20390

Exhibit E.

STATEMENT OF
DON'T TEAR IT DOWN, INC.
BEFORE THE
COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
ON THE PROPOSED FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK BOARD BUILDING
AT 17TH AND G STREETS, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 14, 1974

Good Morning. My name is Carol Bickley. I am President of DON'T TEAR IT DOWN, INC., a citizens action group working to protect and enhance Washington's physical environment. For those of you who are not from Washington and may not be familiar with DON'T TEAR IT DOWN, we are a group of citizens who are concerned about the District's rapidly changing physical environment. We have addressed ourselves to this problem to try to influence what happens. We volunteer our time and expertise and have worked long and hard on a number of issues -- our first being the preservation and use of the Old Post Office. Today, three years later, we are concentrating our immediate efforts on trying to salvage a part of the cityscape, to paraphrase Wolf VonEckardt, so that historic ambience is not thrown out the window.

Because you may not be familiar with the litigation surrounding the question of design of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, I'd like

n Tear It Down, Inc.
O. Box 14043
n Franklin Station
as ngton, D.C. 20044

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to take a minute of your time and explain how we arrived at the current state of affairs. The history of this project is quite long and complicated. On March 2nd and 3rd, depending upon whose version you believe, at any rate over a weekend, the General Services Administration, acting as agents for the Federal Home Loan Bank Board started demolition of the historic structures along 17th Street between F and G Streets, about two blocks from here, in apparent violation of the law. As a result of this action, DON'T TEAR IT DOWN filed a law suit which resulted in a temporary restraining order halting further work on the 17th Street facade of the site and thereby halting further demolition of the remaining structures. One of the two buildings still standing is the Riggs Bank Building, a local landmark designated by the Joint Committee on Landmarks (of which the Commission on Fine Arts is a sponsor) and declared eligible by the Secretary of the Interior for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. The other remaining structure was the Winder Annex, which the Secretary of the Interior declared to be an integral part of the Winder Building and therefore listed on the National Register. There has been much made of the fact that the Joint Committee did not declare the Annex a landmark and that therefore it is not. This is patently absurd. The Joint Committee is charged administratively with carrying out the mandate of the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act. The ultimate authority rests in the

Department of the Interior with the National Register of Historic Places. This determination is extremely significant and must be taken into consideration during all deliberations.

As a result of the temporary restraining order and the likelihood of delay, the Federal Home Loan Bank Board instituted negotiations with the plaintiffs, DON'T TEAR IT DOWN, INC., Representative Fourtney H. Stark, Jr., and Representative Henry Reuss, in an effort to find a new design for the proposed Federal Home Loan Bank Board building which would be more harmonious with the site (which is adjacent to many important national landmarks) and would meet the needs of the Bank Board. The Bank Board through Urbahn Associates, retained the local architectural firm of Hartman and Cox to seek a design solution that would save the buildings remaining on the site but which would modify as little as possible the original design for the site proposed by the Urbahn firm. Hartman and Cox came up with several alternatives, none of which were acceptable to the Bank Board. The Bank Board then authorized Urbahn Associates to develop new designs for the site which they did. You have one before you today. The principal difference between this design and the one you have seen before is that this one retains the Winder Annex. However, the National Capital Planning Commission has recommended that the Annex building be demolished and that yet further site plans be developed (in effect instructing the GSA to come back with the original plans). The ostensible reason for the demolition of the Annex is that it would not harmonize with the

future restoration of the Winder Building. Urbahn Associates have stated that the restoration plans for the Winder Building are not yet complete. Therefore, no one can know whether or not the retention of the Winder Annex will interfere with the restoration of the speculative office structure known as the Winder Building.

In addition to the plan presently before you, Urbahn Associates came up with another design which, in our opinion, has all the positive features of the previous plans with the additional advantage of incorporating and using both the Riggs Bank Building and the Winder Annex on the site. This scheme, illustration number 5, in the Wolf VonEckardt column, which is attached to this statement, holds great promise for the city. It shows what can be done when imagination is used and architects begin to understand the inter-working of a city. In simplified terms, what this alternative calls for is three triangular and interconnected structures to be set back from the facade of 17th Street and clustered about a courtyard. Although as yet only in proposal stage, this design has great potential and is obviously the design solution that the block warrants. The scheme needs refinement, but it is on the right track. It presents an exciting building for the city, one which makes a statement on its own merits without blending into the monotony of nearby Pennsylvania Avenue, K Street, and New York Avenue. The Bank Board has not elected to consider this scheme seriously because

it would take perhaps six months to perfect the design and begin construction. We are firmly convinced that this design warrants serious consideration. There have been greater delays over designs on less crucial sites. An extra six months right now will be a small price to pay for the enhancement of Washington. This is today's contribution to an area of yesterday's buildings. The Commission on Fine Arts is the only reviewing body that addresses itself solely and directly to design. Your decision can affect the site and the surrounding area and your guidance can encourage the preservation of existing buildings. We urge you to reject the present design proposal and ask for a redesign of the site along the lines that the latest Urbahn proposal has suggested.

We appreciate the opportunity of addressing the Commission today. Now that we realize that your meetings are open to the public, we look forward to being here frequently and commenting on issues of importance to the city. We would only ask that you publicize your agenda the full 15 days in advance as required by law so as to give us sufficient time to prepare our comments.

Thank you.

# # # #

December 23, 1974

Dear Mr. Roush:

I'd like to report the Commissionss reactions to the revised design for the Federal Home Loan Bank Board Building which we reviewed at our meeting on December 19, 1974.

In general, the Commission liked the sense of scale and massing, especially the gradual stepping-up of the facade on the G Street elevation. The radical departure from the original design with the use of fin walls, exposed slabs, and large glass areas is a breaking from all other buildings in the neighborhood, and as suchhinvolves a certain amount of risk. However, it could make a nice counterpoint to the relatively restrained character of the Winder Building as well as to some of the nearby office buildings. Nevertheless, the architect should be cautioned to exercise a certain amount of restraint, especially in his attempts to capture some of the facade characteristics of the Old Executive Office Building. We had several points along this line of criticism which we passed along to the architect at the meeting.

- The "dropped" or lowered horizontal panels on the 17th Street elevation should be eliminated, and revised to match similar elements on the G Street elevation.

- The bronze rail along the F and G Street parapet lines gives the profile of the roof a rather thin, cardboard look and should be eliminated.

- The curved, vertical stairwells facing the interior court appear to be left over from an earlier design and should be restudied.

- The scale of the limestone units of the fin walls and vertical surfaces overthe entranceway are too small. The architect indicated he would approximately double the size shown on the drawings, which may be a satisfactory solution. In any event, this detail should be carefully studied.

Exhibit G.

. Our final point concerns the development of the interior court. The present scheme seems to lack a sense of enclosure, especially in regard to its relationship to 17th Street. Possibly the axis of some of the major elements should be realigned to offset this strong linear quality that probably is key to the problem of enclosure.

We will be meeting again on the 15th of January and the 19th of February, 1975, and will be happy to view any new studies at those times.

Sincerely yours,

SIGNED

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Larry Roush
Commissioner
Public Buildings Service
General Services Administration
Washington, D.C. 20405

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE OLD GEORGETOWN ACT

19 December, 1974

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
OG 75-56	3115 N Street, N.W. Edward Dent	Create garage at first floor level of existing residence. Submission unchanged so that owner may meet with Board (resubmission refer to OG 75-42).
ACTION:	Withdrawn at request of owner, 11/6/74. Withdrawn at request of architect, 11/22/74. 11/27/74	
62	1726 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Max Isenbergh	Enlarge existing window to 6' x 6' - 1'6" wider than existing window - pane glass.
ACTION:	Do not issue permit. Recommend restudy. Character of window proposed unsuited to this building. Horizontal shape not recommended, hood not recommended. 12/17/74	
65	3238 R Street, N.W. Reid A. Dunn	New dwelling (resubmission refer to OG 75-49).
ACTION:	See attached letter, 11/27/74.	
67	3239 M Street, N.W. James Gore	Two canvas awnings over windows.
ACTION:	Issue permit for awning with no lettering. If lettering is proposed for awning, text and typeface must be submitted for approval. 11/27/74	
68	1340 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Ruban Bleu, Inc.	Canvas awning over door and window.
ACTION:	Do not issue permit. Red and white stripes not recommended for this location. Suggest something more harmonious with building colors. Does awning cover sign? If there is to be any lettering on awning this should be submitted, including text and typeface, prior to any possible approval. 11/27/74	
69	3340 Volta Place, N.W. Naomi A. Garber	Enclose side porch.
ACTION:	Do not issue permit. Aluminum sliding sash not recommended in this case. Siding over railings not recommended. The result would be out of character with Georgetown. Suggest that any resubmission of an alternate scheme include "much better" photos and a site plan relating proposed work to street. Proposal is very difficult to understand from material submitted. 11/27/74	

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE OLD GEORGETOWN ACT

19 December, 1974

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
OG 75-77	3223 M Street, N.W. Rodolpho's Boutique	Remove existing glass and wooden sash. Install #950 essech metal 1 front door. Brick up one old door and add glass as per sketch.

ACTION: Do not issue permit. No objection to removal of existing windows. Request better photograph showing complete facade of building. Request catalogue cuts or details of frames and door proposed. Consider butting glass in front corners. 11/27/74

78	3229 M Street, N.W. John Dashtara	New sign (resubmission refer to OG 75-36).

ACTION: Issue permit. 11/27/74

79	3211 O Street, N.W. John Goldstein	One new 4' x 6' sign.

ACTION: Do not issue permit. Character and placement of sign not recommended. Suggest simpler shape and typeface - restudy location. 11/27/74

80	3255 M Street, N.W. John Dashtara	New sign 4'6" x 5'6" (resubmission refer to OG 75-33).

ACTION: Do not issue permit. Character and size of sign unsuited to this location. Recommend free-standing individual "Roman" letters in linear composition. Suggest logo be kept 18" behind glass. 11/27/74

81	3295 M Street, N.W. Louis Levy	2'6" x 10' relief wood sign, clear redwood, chocolate brown letters on natural stain background.

ACTION: Issue permit for dark, smooth-faced sign with gold raised lettering. 12/17/74

82	3295 M Street, N.W. Louis Levy	Cover windows with shutters (front only).

ACTION: Do not issue permit for exterior shutters. Recommend interior shutters and, if possible, new sash on first floor to match sash on second floor. 12/17/74

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE OLD GEORGETOWN ACT

19 December, 1974

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
OG 75-		
84	2001 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Sir Walter Raleigh Inn	Reletter sign (resubmission refer to OG 75-66).
ACTION:	Issue permit for sign without roof hood and without scrollwork. 12/17/74	
85	1340 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Cafe de Paris	Canvas awning over door and window (resubmission refer to OG 75-68).
ACTION:	Issue permit for brown awning. 12/17/74	
87	3033 West Lane Keys, N.W. Hollis B. Chenery	Construct brick fence and gate.
ACTION:	Do not issue permit. Suggest continuing wall over old driveway. 12/17/74	
89	3115 N Street, N.W. Edward Dent	Alter front of building to install garage door on lower level (resubmission refer to OG 75-42 and -56).
ACTION:	Do not issue permit. See previous action, OG 75-42. 12/17/74	
91	1218 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Mike Kirby & Greg Smith	Install new sign as detailed on attached drawing.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 12/17/74	

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT

19 December, 1974

NO.	*ADDRESS AND OWNER*	*PROJECT*
SL 75-16	*490 C Street, S.W.* *Morry & Helen J. Dunayer*	*Change existing sign from "American" to "AMOCO".*
ACTION:	*Do not issue permit. Internally illuminated sign not recommended in Shipstead-Luce area with this proximity to Capitol and federal buildings. Suggest adapting existing sign. 12/17/74*	
18	*4875 Colorado Avenue, N.W.* *Delma Robinson*	*New masonry residence (resubmission refer to SL 74-64).*
ACTION:	*Issue permit. 12/17/74*	
19	*317 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E.* *Marriott Corporation*	*One 15' x 18" wood sign with cut out wood letters - background flat black, letters gold leaf.*
ACTION:	*Do not issue permit. "Roy Rogers" logo, typeface unsuited to this building and proximity to Capitol. Recommend single Roman typeface throughout. Suggest single line of matching text. 12/17/74*	
21	*2715 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.* *AMOCO Oil Company*	*Change existing sign from "American" to "AMOCO".*
ACTION:	*Do not issue permit. Internally illuminated signs not permitted on perimeter of Rock Creek Park. Recommend adapting existing signage. Please note size restriction in this area. 12/17/74*	

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE OLD GEORGETOWN ACT

19 December, 1974

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
OG 75-70	2820 Dumbarton Street, N.W. Tyler & Bess Abell	Enclose side porch and raise roof of existing rear building.
ACTION:	Do not issue permit. Request additional information showing how proposed work relates to appearance of house and what is visible from street and alley. Suggest that any new sash should be coordinated with other existing sash on building. Show trim and millwork for door, cornice, etc. with photos, drawings, or catalogue cuts. Is roof to be raised on all sides? 11/27/74	
71	3203 R Street, N.W. Arthur Frank	Brick wall enclosing rear garden at property line.
ACTION:	Do not issue permit. No objection to concept. Eliminate finials, indicate exact design of caps (recommend brick) and coping, submit brick sample. 11/27/74	
72	1521 28th Place, N.W. Frank P. Harman, III	Addition.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 11/27/74	
73	3025 O Street, N.W. Anne G. Fuller	Addition of deck in rear; steps and walk in front.
ACTION:	Do not issue permit for work on front of house. Issue permit for work on rear of house and proposed front light fixture. Recommend retention of existing Victorian sash on front. Wood-topped handrail not recommended in this case. 11/27/74	
74	2620 Dumbarton Street, N.W. Mrs. Robert F. Gates	Replace old delapidated existing fence and mend old fence in places if possible.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 11/27/74	
76	3239 M Street, N.W. James Gore	One 3' x 6' sign flat against building.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 11/27/74	